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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/986,104	11/07/2001	Laszlo Hars	US 010172	4903
24737	7590	04/20/2006	EXAMINER	
PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS			ZIA, SYED	
P.O. BOX 3001			ART UNIT	
BRIARCLIFF MANOR, NY 10510			PAPER NUMBER	

2131

DATE MAILED: 04/20/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/986,104	HARS, LASZLO	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Syed Zia	2131	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 February 2006.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1,4-7 and 10-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 2,3,8,9 and 18-20 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

This office action is in response to amendment filed on August 11, 2005. Original application contained Claims 1-16. Applicant previously amended claim 4, 11-12, and added new claims 17-20. Applicant's request for reconsideration of the finality of the rejection of the last Office action is persuasive and, therefore, the finality of that action is withdrawn. Therefore, presently Claims 1-20 are pending.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claim1-20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2-3, 8-9, and 18-20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 1, 4-7, and 10-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Linnartz ("The 'ticket' concept for copy control based on embedding signalling", Philips Research, 02/04/98).

2. With respect to claim 1, Linnartz discloses a method of further increasing the difficulty of importing to a secure domain digital content including watermarks which impose a degree of difficulty on illicitly importing to the secure domain the digital content, the degree of difficulty associated with the watermarks being capable of being illicitly overcome by importing to the secure domain segments of the digital content which are so short that the watermarks cannot be reliably detected, the method comprising preventing importing to the secure domain of sections of the digital content having a length less than or equal to a length associated with the length of reliable watermark detection (page 4, bullet 4; page 9, bullet 1).

3. With respect to claim 4, Linnartz discloses a method wherein some of the watermarks or a header associated with the digital content indicate the digital content can be copied (page 4, lines 9-17), the method further comprising determining whether the digital content is not to be illicitly imported to the secure domain or can be legally importing to a domain, and overriding the preventing step in response to the determining

step determining that the digital content can be legally importing (page 4, lines 9-17).

4. With respect to claim 7, Linnartz discloses an apparatus arranged to be responsive to digital content including watermarks for imposing a degree of difficulty on illicitly importing to a secure domain the content, the apparatus being arranged for increasing the difficulty of illicitly importing to the secure domain the digital content, the difficulty associated with the watermarks being capable of being overcome by importing to the secure domain segments of the digital content which are so short that the watermarks cannot be reliably detected, the apparatus comprising a detector for segments of the digital content having a length equal to or less than a preset length (page 4, 29-30), the preset length being so short that the watermarks cannot be reliably detected, and signal processor responsive to the detector (page 7, bullet 3; page 9, lines 5-8, line 16) and the digital content for preventing importing to the secure domain at least some of the digital content segment being detected as having a length less than or equal to the preset length (page 4, bullet 4; page 9, bullet 1).

5. With respect to claim 10, Linnartz discloses an apparatus wherein the readout apparatus comprises a recorder for the digital content (page 4, line 34).

6. With respect to claim 11, Linnartz discloses an apparatus wherein the readout apparatus comprises a playback unit for the digital content (page 4, line 34).

7. With respect to claim 12, Linnartz discloses an apparatus wherein some of the

watermarks or a header of a track or song of the digital media content indicate the digital content can be legally imported to a domain (page 4, lines 9-17), the detector being arranged for determining whether the digital content is not to be illicitly imported to the secure domain or can be legally imported to a domain (page 4, lines 9-17), the signal processor being arranged to enable importing to a domain all the digital content in response to the detector determining that the digital content can be imported (page 4, lines 9-17).

8. With respect to claim 5, 6, 13, and 14 Linnartz discloses a method further including detecting the presence of a distorted watermark, and performing the preventing step in response to the distorted watermark being detected (page 6, paragraph 1).

9. With respect to claim 17 Linnartz discloses, a method comprising: receiving a segment of digital media content at a secure domain; determining whether the length of the segment is sufficient to enable detection of a watermark if present in the segment; and controlling importation of the segment into the secure domain in response to the segment length determination (page 4, 9-30, page 7, bullet 3; page 9, lines 5-8, line 16, and page 4, bullet 4, and page 9, bullet 1).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Syed Zia whose telephone number is 571-272-3798. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 to 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz Sheikh can be reached on 571-272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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March 23, 2006

